

RECKLESS RALPH'S

# DIME NOVEL ROUND-UP



A monthly magazine devoted to the collecting, preservation and literature of the old-time dime and nickel novels, libraries and popular story papers.

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## THE CIRCUS IS COMING TO TOWN

Gather 'round kids, while you hear the good news,  
Of the circus that's coming to town;  
There'll be lions and tigers and gorgeous revues,  
While an elephant sits on a clown.

It's on Monday, and Tuesday and Wednesday this week,  
The tents will be blaring with flags,  
Out at Beaverbrook Playground, down by the creek,  
With peanuts and tightropes and gags.

Don't you dare drive to see the great show,  
For it's pleasure and no dire need;  
But see it you must, and get there you may,  
By trolley, for that's no misdeed.

They're marked 24; on Main Street they're found,  
From the courthouse to Chandler street;  
You go out to Park, having boarded southbound,  
Walk a block, to a super-top treat.

So get ready, kids 'n everybody, for the summers best time,  
When the big top goes up for you here;  
The trolley's will take you for only a dime,  
And the O. P. A. won't interfere.

Come see Ringling Bros. & Barnum Bailey  
Greatest and Biggest Show on earth.  
At Worcester, Mass., U. S. A., July 26, 27 and 28th,  
Come one, come all, for it'll be your worth.

By Worcester Street Railway Co.  
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## WESTERN POIONEER DAYS

by J. H. Ambruster

G. H. Cordier's interesting article in the April issue concerning early days in California, brings to mind many similar experiences in Colorado in the 80's and early 90's, perhaps not quite so far back as Mr. Cordier's experiences. The two localities are about 1500 miles apart, but conditions appear to have been pretty much the same and there undoubtedly were similar situations in dozens of other boom towns, (now "ghost towns"), in early mining camp districts. The same carefree class of independent rough and ready men, tricky fakers, tin-horn gamblers and swindlers, with a generous sprinkling of wiley courtézans, questionable "actresses" or dance hall habitués, and other males and females all after the elusive dollar (or gold dust) illegitimately procured, always were among the vanguard of arrivals in the early days of such places as Leadville, Oroville, Placerville, the Klondike, Cripple Creek, Creede, the Comstock diggings, to mention a few.

But this article deals particularly with comparisons between California and Colorado, or to be more explicit, between San Francisco and Denver, the two largest cities in districts of the kind named. Of course, at that time Denver had passed the mining camp stage; in fact, it never was a mining camp in the strict sense of the word, nor was San Francisco. Both were rendezvous and business centers frequented by prospectors, capitalists, large and small, and others interested in the mining enterprise; both depended largely on the mining industry for their existence. When a prospector thought he had struck it rich in some out of the way place where he was sure "thar's gold in them thar hills," instead of getting busy and trying to dig out all the gold he thought was there, he would hurry to the city to find some one who would buy his claim outright and take a chance on becoming an overnight millionaire, or finding nothing, which often proved to be the case. Failing in this he might find some capitalist of the smaller fry, (often called a "sucker"), who would grubstake him and send him back to the hills to do more work on his claim. In either case, to find such a

person the logical place was among the saloons or hotels of the city. The grubstaker had about the same chance as the outright buyer in striking a bonanza, for no matter how rich the prospect might look, it might suddenly peter out at any time. The prospector realizing this, was not anxious to take a chance in digging too fast, if there was an opportunity to sell outright. Grubstakers did not require large amounts at the start, and could stop if things did not progress properly. Take for instance, H. A. W. Tabor, postmaster at Leadville, whose principal equipment was an upright revolving sugar barrel trickily shelved and pigeon-holed in order to take care of "general deliveries" without rising from his seat. Tabor literally started on a shoe string and by fortunate grub-staking became the richest man in Colorado during his time, and the most noted. A theatre and other buildings which he erected in Denver bore his name, and later he was a U. S. Senator for a time.

But this is getting away from my story. Some of the points which impressed me in reading Cordier's story, first: the list of publications of that time, also familiar to me. For instance the various Leslie periodicals, Chimney Corner, Boys and Girls Weekly, Popular Monthly; incidentally, the present day AMERICAN MAGAZINE is the successor of at least one of the Leslie publications. Then there were Seaside Library, St. Nicholas, Chatterbox, Beadle's and other Dime Novels galore. And the Haggard novel "She" brings back exciting memories.

There were famous characters in the Colorado district as well as in the California diggings. Denver at that time had passed the boom town stage and was taking on a metropolitan appearance. In the early 90's some of the older buildings which had been thought magnificent when they replaced earlier primitive shacks, in turn were giving way to more modern buildings of the pretentious skyscraper class. Still in the older and crumbling sections of the city some of the former architecture and spirit of the earlier days yet remained. One street in this section, known as "Holladay Street," named after the operator of one of the early stage lines, about this time had its name changed to "Market Street," for the reason that



Holladay too much resembled Holiday, which the street really represented if looked upon as a haven for "con" men, tin horns, dives, fake auction stores, cheap theatres, gin mills and all that goes with such neighborhoods, where a holiday might be enjoyed by the class of people who would frequent a street of that type, although it might prove over-expensive for an inexperienced tenderfoot.

Chief among the slickers of that street was "Soapy" Smith, whose name has heretofore appeared in these columns and whose shady exploits recently were dramatized on the Death Valley Days radio program. Gambling houses were wide open, including all kinds of games of chance; also Policy Shops, similar to the present day "Numbers" racket, where one could place a bet for any amount from a quarter upwards, (some places even a dime would do). Bat Masterson, a wild west character of Dodge City, Denver and other localities; at that time made his headquarters in Denver, as did others of western daredevil renown. To the wiley tricks of this smooth slicker "Soapy," the writer blushing confesses that he was one of the tenderfeet "come-ons" who contributed to his financial and nefarious success. As a matter of explanation or in extenuation of the circumstances it may be added that this unsuspecting youth from the East with infinite confidence in everybody, was trustful but not wise enough to cope with cutthroat swindlers who were to cross his path and who were looking for victims of his exact type. Such experience, costly at the time, was well worth the price of caution exercised in transactions of later years. After a homesick visit back east the wanderlust returned, and this time he made the trip alone on a high-wheel bicycle, before the days of automobiles or paved roads. Then a considerable time was spent in several Rocky Mountain camps, most of which are now deserted 'Ghost Towns.' But these experiences are separate stories.

Cordier tells of the famous San Francisco Chinatown. Denver could not match this. At that time most of the Chinese populations of the country were to be found on the west coast, and while their numbers grew less and less as one moved eastward, there

was yet a goodly sprinkling of them in Denver, principally then as now, in the clothes renovating business, the steam laundries of today's design not yet having made much of an impression in that industry. On the coast, of course, Chinese were engaged in varied occupations, such as mining, farming, etc. There are even now so-called Chinatowns in other cities, but very tame affairs when compared to that of San Francisco, especially the Chinatown of former days with its secret underground passages and mysterious doings.

Both San Francisco and Denver have long since outgrown their pioneer aspects and are now classed as modern, metropolitan cities, but memories of those exciting early day experiences remain—memories of stirring events which at the time were simply considered passing incidents of the day, but which in looking backward seem to have been fraught with danger, trickery and deception on every side.

## MAGIC CALIFORNIA

by Frisco Bert

California's marvellous climate in sections delights those of sissy dispositions but the lads with hair on their chests like the sections of California where men are men and women make them prove it. It is in these sections, Death Valley, for instance, 'nat the country gets so hot and dry that when a person faints they throw dust in his face to bring him to, that being the wettest thing they can find for that purpose.

But around some spots the bull frogs on a river bank on a hot day have been known to dive into the water when one of the "unusual weather" changes came on so fast that the river froze, leaving their legs outstretched into air. The Californians are always equal to any occasion so in this instance they rushed out onto the ice with lawnmowers and harvested enough frog legs to last them for three days.

In the farming sections the soil is of universal richness and vegetables attain enormous size in astonishingly short time. When Californians need a canoe they just slit a cucumber lengthwise and scoop it out. Corn grows so fast that Jack's Beanstalk



grew at a snail's pace in comparison. A farmer planted California Zucchini seed in a row as he walked from his farm house and before he had planted three hills the first hill had grown so fast as to entangle the farmer so that the family could not drag him out of the vines so they just took him to town in the farm wagon and stood him on the market house corner and sold zucchini right off the vines for three days before they could see how to get the farmer out of the entangled vines. But sad to relate in his struggle to get loose from the vine when it first enmeshed him the farmer had fallen face into the ground and his nose grew so fast that it caught in his ear when he was struggling in the growing vines and when he sneezed he blew his brains out.

It is back of that farmer's house that the celebrated California Mineral Water is found. It is a matter of record that a dog had the tip of his tail snipped off by a harvesting machine at work in the farmer's field one day and the dog dashed for this magic water and dipped his tail in. Instantly a new tail end grew on him. But not being a native Californian dog he did not know any better than to go skipping gaily around the harvesting machine to show how happy he was to have a new tail tip when ZIP he got caught again but this time his entire tail was cut off. But the dog had the presence of mind to grab his severed tail in his teeth and dash for the magic California mineral water and plunged in head foremost. A new dog swam out with a wife and four pups that quick. It really is remarkable how recuperating California mineral waters are.

**Make your home in Californy, Pard.**

A series of clippings to appear from time to time on various authors of Nick Carter in various papers as they appeared—this is clipping No. 1.

**Pioneer Dime Novel Author Dies at 77**

By the Associated Press, San Jose, Calif. Oct. 29th no date. Eugene T. Sawyer, pioneer San Jose newspaper man and one of the group of writers responsible for the "dime novel" thrillers which flourished 20 years ago died at his home here at the age of 77. For years Sawyer has led a quiet, retired life here, working at intervals on his "History of Santa Clara County," which was published in 1922.

## NEWSY NEWS by Ralph F. Cummings

Who said Nick Carter was dead! No such thing, as he is as lively as he can be for he is making things hum in every issue of the Doc Savage Comic's Magazines.

Ye editor is collecting Pluck and Luck now. Send him your for sale lists. He also wants very badly, Tip Top Weekly No. 850. Bowery Boy No. 55, Wild West 154,176, Wide Awake Weekly 53, Rough Riders Weekly 1 2 3 19 36 37 38 39 43 47 48 72 81 83 84 85 90 91 112 113 114 161 162 164 169 170, Brave and Bold. 2 7 11 14 26 29 31 32 34 35 92 96 163 189 190 200 204 252 386 387 and No. 25 of Red Raven Library. Also Fred Pitzers The Circus Scrap Book for 1929—No. 2.

These members of Happy Hours Brotherhood are in the Service now: Capt. C. G. Mayo, Edward LeBlanc, John E. Clark, Ralph Sisk, Joe Potaski, Robert McDowell, Stanley A. Pachon, Major Shirley Donnelly and Edwin Brooks.

Charley Daniel says that improvements on the Roundup would be fine, such as a picture of some old novel or paper every now and then, also a 16 page issue every month. Well, we will see what we can do on the former but the latter is out of the question now.

To write a modern novel, forget about plot, just describe some people and tell what each does and quit when you have 200,000 words, so sez the Detroit Free Press.

George Barton says (continued from August issue) No. 35 of Ching Chings Own started another of Burrages whimsical tales — The Wild Adventures of Eddard and Jam Jassers. "Eddard" was Edward Cutler the Wooden Legged Sailor in "Handsome Harry." No. 32. "The Black Tiger" by Capt. Frederick Whittaker, evidently borrowed from some American paper, started No. 37, began a story in which Handsome Harry was the hero. "Our Boys Abroad, or the Black Band of the Rhine." He was aided and abetted by Young Ching Ching. No. 40 started off Vol. 4 and also one of E. H. Burrages most famous stories "Tom Tarter at School." or True Friend and Noble Foe. A really grand old time school tale combining school and adventure as only E. H. B. could blend them. After being run as a serial it



was issued in penny numbers and shilling volumes for several years. About 1902 The Boys Realm, one of Harmsworth's papers republished the story giving it a new series of illustrations. Evidently Burrage had become connected with Harmsworth at about this time for "The Boys Herald" ran several serials that appeared in "Ching Ching's Own," Gallant Hal and "Daring Dave" being two of them. Jack of the Golden Belt, or Right Against Wrong," began in No. 48—one of the most thrilling stories ever written — Entertaining, mysterious, moderately mirthful, and sensational in the best sense of the word. No. 53 began "Dick Stowaway or a Hero in Spite of his Foes." No. 57 opened up with the second part of Tam Tarter at School. This winds up the knowledge of the first series of Ching Ching's Own except that it started for the first volume as eight pages of story paper and an extra four page novelette. See Vol. 3, No. 27 new series in another issue.

Ye editor and his two little nephews went to see the greatest show on earth, Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey, and it sure was a treat to them as they had never been to the circus before. This was the third time I've ever seen a circus. Once when I was a kid, I went with my father, and when I was down to Philadelphia in 1938 or 39, Uncle Billy, Mrs. Marie Bendig and myself went, and this time.

Have you seen Charlie Campbells "To Day is Circus Day in—?" If not, send him 10c for a copy of his latest. Vol. 3. No. 17. Real interesting. To Charlie Campbell, Sylva, N. C.

Talbot C. Hatch, a new member, is in search for all kinds of detective and crime dime and nickel novels, or anything old, on Detectives, etc. Can you help him out, pards, he wants anything of the above from the early 1800's up. His address: Hotel Francis Drake, Minneapolis, Minn.

Wm. E. Bates says that in 1938 he and his family made a trip out thru the west by auto, to South Dakota, the Bad Lands, Rapid City and Deadwood City. While there he visited the burial places of "Wild Bill" Hickok and "Calamity Jane," in Mt. Morish Cemetary. He also climbed the mountain in that part of the Black Hills for the purpose of finding Deadwood

Dicks burial, and there he found D. Dicks grave way up on a peak overlooking surrounding country, and a great granite (he believes) monument standing up and marking the spot. Bill, read all about Deadwood Dick way back in the 80s.

Victor Neighbors now has his set complete in the H. Rider Haggard books. Must be an interesting lot.

Arthur S. Chandler of Lebanon, N. H., says he had over 1600 Dime and Half Dime Novels in 1906 and wishes he had them now. There's a chance to buy these old timers, only thing is they'll cost you more than they did at that time. Join up with a real lot of dime and nickel novel collectors, and enjoy a real magazine that tells you things you never knew before.

Do we miss the articles written by Harold C. Holmes, I'll say we do, so how about something nice for our Literary Table, Harold?

And George H. Cordier will have a fine article in next issue, on The Boys of New York.

Ad rates starting with the October issue of Roundup will be changed. Watch for new rates.

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### NOTICE

Now's your chance to get a complete List of War Libraries, Nos. 1 to the end. Price 25c. — Ye Pub.

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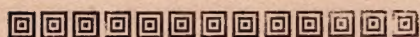
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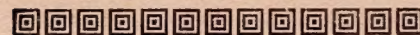
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Right now I have a nice bunch of about two hundred Beadles New York Dime Library to exchange for certain Tip Tops I need between 1 and 100, or will pay well in cash. Send me your list, including only those that are in good condition.

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50 cents each for "Argosy"—Vol. 18 Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, Vol. 19, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5; Vol. 20, No. 1.

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If you have odd numbers of the following to sell, please quote me price per number. If price is satisfactory, I will send you my want list: Frank Leslie's "Boys and Girls Weekly," "Golden Days," "Golden Hours," "Happy Days," "Our Boys and Girls" (Oliver Optic), "Our Young Folks," "Onward," "Student and Schoolmate."

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Beadles Half Dime Library #21 30 73 74 507 571 702  
Western Weekly #12 54  
Wide Awake Library #180 451 1062  
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Also any other Dime Novels of Ranger interest.

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